

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 00679 160746Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----160750Z 059302 /10

R 151410Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0438  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T SANA 0679

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, YE  
SUBJ: PDRY AT THE CROSSROADS

1. ROSY ROULEAU, FORMER WIFE OF ERIC ROULEAU, LE MONDE  
CORRESPONDENT AND ARABIST, IS BACK IN YEMEN AS  
JOURNALIST ON HER OWN. AFTER TEN PREVIOUS TRIPS IN TWICE  
AS MANY YEARS, SHE HAS EXCELLENT CONTACTS AND UNUSUAL  
PERSPECTIVE. HER ARABIC LETS WHER WORK ONE ON ONE.

2. SHE IS FULL OF STORIES ABOUT SALIM RUBAYYA ALI  
WHOM SHE SAW AT LENGTH IN ADEN. HE'S NO A THINKER,  
SHE SAYS, BUT A MAN OF ACTION, A MAN WHO HAS DECIDED  
FOR HARD PRACTICAL REASONS THAT THE CAUSE OF EXPORTING  
REVOLUTION ISN'T WORTH THE COST AT HOME. "WE WERE  
STARVING," SALIM TOLD HER. "WE HAD TO TAKE THE  
OUTSTRETCHED SAUDI HAND." HE INSISTED THIS WAS A  
TACTICAL VICTORY, PERHAPS (SHE FELT) AS MUCH OVER  
HARD-LINERS AT HOME AS OVER THE WEALTHY SAUDIS  
AND HE TOLD HER FLATELY THAT HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT  
LET THE NEW POLICY INFLUENCE THE DOMESTIC ACHIEVE-  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANA 00679 160746Z

MENTS. BUT THE EXPORT OF REVOLUTION WAS NOW MERE  
TALK, AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF ARMS AND TRAINING,  
AND NOT REALLY AN ARTICLE OF FAITH ANYMORE.

3. SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO SEE IDEOLOGICAL ABDAL  
FATTAH ISMAIL BUT HE WAS "IN THE HOSPITAL" AND  
"VERY SICK. EVERYTHING'S WRONG WITH HIM INCLUDING

SOME KIND OF INTERNAL BLEEDING."

COMMENT:

FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS THIS POST HAS PRODUCED A SERIES OF CABLES ENTITLED "PDRY AT THE CROSSROADS," WHICH WAS INTENDED TO LOOK FOR SIGNS OF CHANGE AND VULNERABILITY IN RADICAL PDRY. THE SIGNS ARE THERE BUT THEY ARE NOT UNMIXED. WHEN FOR INSTANCE IVOR LUCAS, UK MIDEAST CHIEF, SAW PDRY FORMIN MUTIH IN NOVEMBER 1976 HE "ASKED HIM IF HE COULD SAY SPECIFICALLY THAT PDRY HAD NO INTENTION OF EXPORTING REVOLUTION. (MUTHI) DID SO, WHILE ADDING THAT OF COURSE CERTAIN REGIMES WERE BOUND TO HAVE OPPOSITION. "(THE QUOTE IF FROM LUCAS'S REPORT.) SOE ONE MUST SHOOSE. WE THINK THE BALANCE HAS SWUNG DECISIVELY ON THE EXPORT OF REVOLUTION ALTHOUGH LINK TO TERRORISM REMAINS STRONG. MOREOVER, THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR MUCH FURTHER CHANGE. LONG CABLE DETAILING THIS AND SUGGESTING A CHANGE OF US POLICY TO SPEED AND TO EXPLOIT THESE SHIFTS WERE

SENT THIS WEEK. THE CONCLUSION: THE TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES NOW JUSTIFY RENEWED RELATIONS WITH PDRY. WE CAN'T BE SURE RELATIONS WLLL PRODUCE THE RESULTS WE WANT, BUT IT'S WORTH TRYING.  
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009